

Cup news in brief

WYCOMBE Wanderers will once again feature on the nation's television screens. BBC television news are bringing down a couple of cameras to cover the match for their evening broadcasts.

But Wanderers, who appeared on ITV's 'Big Match' six years ago when they played Middlesbrough, will not be seen on 'Match of the Day'. The coverage will be confined to BBC's evening news broadcasts, with the main chunk on BBC 2 news and sports programme, around 7p.m.

PATIENTS in Wycombe and Amersham Hospitals will not have to miss the big cup tie. Wycombe Hospital Radio will be presenting live commentary on the whole match.

The special programme begins at 2p.m. in order to sample something of the atmosphere in the build-up to the game. Patients can hear the broadcast and other programmes put out by the station, by turning to Channels One or Five on their handset.

THE big match referee is Mr Vic Callow from Solihull in the Midlands. Mr Callow, who has been on the Football League list for a couple of seasons is regarded as one of the top up-and-coming officials in the country.

SHOULD the match end in a draw, the replay will be held at Dean Court on Tuesday, kick-off 7.30p.m.

ONE man who could look distinctly shaggy if Wycombe have a prolonged F.A. Cup run is central defender Bobby Davies. He is doing a 'Bjorn Borg' and will not shave until Blues are knocked out.

Davies, a schoolmaster, explained the reasons behind his hair-raising efforts. "I never normally shave during the half-term holiday and at the end of that week we met Worcester in the fourth qualifying round. I vowed then not to shave it off until we were knocked out," he said.

Cup glories of the past

WYCOMBE Wanderers proudly boast one of the best non-league teams in the F.A. Cup over recent years. This is the eighth year in succession that they have reached the first round proper.

In four successive seasons between 1973-77, Blues always reached the second round proper, while in 1974-75 they made the first round for the first time in their history.

The last time they failed to make the big time was way back in 1972-73 when they went out to Walton & Hersham 1-0 in the third qualifying round.

Since that match Wanderers have played 30 F.A. Cup ties, winning 17, drawing 6 and losing 7 (4 of them to Football League teams). In the process they have scored 52 goals and conceded 28.

Scalp

The first of their big years came in 1973/74 when they progressed from the first qualifying round to the second round proper, when they lost 3-1 at home to Peterborough. On the way Newport were beaten 3-1 to become the Blues first ever Football League scalp.

Wanderers' good run should have exempted them from the early qualifying rounds of next season's competition. But an administrative slip-up meant they had to play all the way through.

A campaign which started quietly at Marlow in September ended in the tumultuous roars from the Middlesbrough crowd at Ayresome Park after a titanic third round replay which the home side won 1-0.

The next two seasons saw second round defeats against Cardiff and Reading and then the club went into relative doldrums. Victory over Bournemouth could herald the emergence from the shadows.

Wycombe Cup trail since 1973

1973-74: bt Tilbury 1-0 (1st qual rd), bt Woking 1-0 (2nd qual rd), bt Chatham 7-0 (3rd qual rd), bt Worthing 3-0 (4th qual rd), bt Newport 3-1 (1st rd), lost to Peterborough 1-3 (2nd round).

1974-75: bt Marlow 1-0 (1st qual rd), bt Milton Keynes 2-0 (2nd qual rd), bt Chesham 3-1 (3rd qual rd), bt Margate 2-1 (4th qual rd), bt Cheltenham 3-1 (1st rd), drew Bournemouth 0-0 (2nd rd), bt Bournemouth 2-1 (replay); drew Middlesbrough 0-0 (3rd rd); lost to Middlesbrough 0-1 (replay).

1975-76: drew Croydon 2-2 (4th qual rd), bt Croydon 5-2 (replay), drew Bedford 0-0 (1st rd), drew Bedford 2-2 (replay), bt Bedford 2-1 (2nd replay); lost to Cardiff 0-1 (2nd round).

1976-77: bt Merthyr Tydfil 3-1 (4th qual rd), bt Waterlooville 2-1 (1st rd); lost to Reading 1-2 (2nd rd).

1977-78: lost to Mingehead 0-2 (1st rd).

1978-79: lost to Maidstone 0-1 (1st rd).

1979-80: bt Barnet 2-1 (4th qual rd); lost to Croydon 0-3 (1st rd).

1980-81: drew Worcester 1-1 (4th qual rd); bt Worcester 1-0 (replay).